AN ARTIST'S MODEL.

BY ASTLEY H. BALDWIN.

"What I want, my boy, is war, war—'war to the knife!' plenty of French three-deckers to rake, and lots of prize money to be paid for raking 'em!

That is what Bersie Gray, Lieutenant of H. M. S. Thunderbolt, said to Reginald Ashe, a rising specimen of the genus British artist. 'And what I want, my boy, is a successful

summer tour, a generous 'hanging committee'

next season, and a good position on the line. The thanks of a grateful public, and the G. C. B. of an appreciating sovereign," said Bertie, raising his wineglass, as if to "propoge a toast," as Mrs. Gamp has it. "The recognition of genius by discerning critics, and R. A. tacked on to my name," cried

"Artists don't rise to be R. A. in a single season! 'Lieutenants in the navy don't become G. C. B. without fighting, and we are at peace with all

the world. Both the young men laughed heartily.

'O for the days when George III was king!' sighed Bertle. "O for the days of kind-hearted, generous Sir Joshua!" said Reginald.

"Joshua-what?" "Reynolds, of course. Albert Gray and Reginald Ashe were fast and dear friends, and were sitting on a beautiful June evening in the chambers of the latter in the Adelphi, sipping some very fair claret, and interchanging notes on their future prospects. The first named, as has been said, was a lieutenant in the navy, and his age might be about He was rather strongly built, tawny naired, blue eyed, and brown complexioned Reginald Ashe was, perhaps, three years his junior, of a lighter build than his friend, tall, elegant, with clear cut features, dark liquid hazel eyes with long black lashes, and ink black

silky moustache and hair.
"Fill your glass, dear old boy, and we'll drink to our mutual good luck. Here's to you, my

"And to you, my Pythias!" returned the sailor. And the young men glanced at each other without saying more, after the fashion of us phlegmatic Englishmen. But there was a world of sincere affection in the glance, brief as it was; and the heart of each beat a little more rapidly

as they grasped hands.
"Heigho!" said Bertie, "it's almost time to be afloat again. Leave's up on Tuesday." "I shall be off for my summer tour when you're gone, Bertie-there'll be nothing to keep me in town then."

"But your other friends-" 'Other friends? O bah! I don't care about the world's ordinary friendship. A man asks you to dinner with him at his club twice in the season if you are prosperous, and cuts you in the street if you wear a shabby coat. That's the friendship (it is a libel on the name) of nine fellows out of ten. No, no, Bertie; I hold the doctrine, that in friendship as in love one should suffice. I'll own no divided allegiance."
Bertie looked gratified, but said nothing.

"And so," continued Reginald, "when the Thunderbolt weighs anchor, I'm off to Wales, or some other picturesque locality. Brutus, down!" he said to a large white cat which had jumped on his knee, and was endeavoring to make a plaything of his meerschaum. Bertie laughed.

'How you spoil that cat, Reggie!" "Got a passion for cats—shall put him in a picture some day, 'with a hey diddle diddle, the cat and the fiddle,' etc. I wonder Landseer never took the nursery rhyme for a subjectthere's the little dog, and the cow.' 'Landseer is not great at cows.

"He's great at everything, sir."
"Well, as you please. What's to be your own subject for next season?" 'The meeting of Henry VIII and Anne Bo-

O! we aim at being historical in style; w are ambitious, it seems! "Yes, we are."

"I mean to swell out your figure, and make you Henry. 'Much obliged, I'm sure."

"O, he wasn't so very bloated when he met Anne first," laughed Reginald. "History often "Does it indeed?" "And he had a noble presence, and by some

was thought a model of manly beauty. "Shows their taste then, if I am to

"I shall make a Sir Thomas Wyatt of myself." "Ah, you do look sweet and sentimental with those lustrous dark eyes.' "Get out!

"Not a bit of it." "But now comes the dilemma. I can't find a model that at all comes up to my notion of the fair Anne. 'Misericorde! Hamlet with the Prince of

"Just so. I fear I shall have to abandon the subject and choose another. 'Wouldn't Leila Davenant do?" asked Bertie, with just the suspicion of a blush coloring his "Leila Davenant! Anne Boleyn didn't squint."

"Neither does Miss Davenant!" cried Bertie indignantly. Reginald Ashe looked at him curiously

"O, the land lies in that direction, does it?"
"Nonsense, Reggie! as if I shouldn't have told
you if it did! What secrets have I from you, dear old fellow?' Reginald was touched.

'Well, you'll tell me when you lose your heart, then?

"Of course I will-and you?" "To be sure I will."

"Is it a mutual bargain?"

Denmark omitted!"

"Shake hands on it, then." Bertie rose.

"I shall see you once more before I sail Reggie; I shall look in on Saturday. I go to Portsmouth on Monday. You'll give me a fare-well supper, won't you?"

'Yes, yes, of course," said the other, in a voice not quite steady, and with something very like dew in his eyes.

"Good-bye then, dear old fellow !" And with a cordial grasp of both hands that was next door to a positive embrace, these two young men, who did not consider it at all effeminate feel and show affection for each other,

sighed Reginald, when the door had "Ah. closed behind his friend, "how I shall miss Well, he'll be back next year. Meanwhile I must work. And now to flud a model

Early in July Reginald Ashe was comfortably established in very pretty apartments in the cottage of a highly respectable widow, in one of the most picturesque localities of North Wales. Here he set to work in earnest on his "great picture," as with all the fondness of a young artist he termed the work which he hoped would make him famous the ensuing spring. so far advanced with the painting that it was impossible to put off any longer the sketching in of the principal figure; and he resolved, since he could find no model to his taste, to trust to his creative lany alone for the portrai-ture of the lovely and ill-fated. Anne. Reginald had greatly flattered his landlady's vanity by introducing her to his canvas in the quality of one of the attendants on Katherine of Arragot and the consequence was that the worthy soul took intense interest in the painting and believed she was destined to be immortalized on the valls of the Royal Academy. But Mrs. Crupe, sood woman, had no notion of a poet's or painter's idea of Anne Boleyn, and could only say that "Miss Lilian Wrasse, the parson's daughter, was reckoned

the finest girl in these parts and very kind to everybody, and no doubt would be witing to sit to hir. Ashe."

Reginald, who was just setting out to his usual morning's excursion, and had all his sketching paraphernalia slung across his shoulder, smiled at this, and said,

"No, no, Mrs. Crupe; perhaps some good fairy may send me a real flesh and blood Anne during my mountain rambles; and if not I must trust to my ideal.

hot as it usually is in the month of July. A blue heat mist overhung the purple hill tops, and seemed, like the veil of beauty, to wish to hide their glories from the heather land below. A wide expanse of moor, growing crimson with the heath blooms, which were already beginning to burst into blossem, was dotted here and there with flocks of the diminutive mountain sheep, and herds of shaggy black and dun cattle, at once sullen, picturesque, and intract-The wide-spread panorama was intersected in all directions by winding mountain streams, which, although running very low on account of the extreme heat of the weather, yet retained sufficient water in their channels to supply the browsing flocks and herds, and to add greatly to the beauty of the wild and exquisite picture. The sun, not yet fully risen, hung a great globe of gold over the few scattered firs which crowned some of the hill-tops, and, dispersing the mists as he ascended, gave promise of a magnificent day.

The young artist, dashing the hair from his brow, stood gazing on the lovely scene with a rapt intensity of gaze and thought, only known to those hard brain and hand toilers of the great Babylon, to whom it is rarely given to snatch a few hours from the turmoil of city existence, and commune with nature in her own solitudes. He looked back at the little rose-bowered cot-tage, which he had left a mile behind him, and almost felt that he could be content to resign forever the golden dream of ambition, and, with the friend of his heart and the wife of his bosom for companions, pass in this sweet and solitary spot a tranquil, if an unambitious existence. But a moment's reflection awoke him from the dream, and recalled his wandering imagination to the realities of life.

"I must not lose the fine effects of those early mountain mists," he murmured to himself. "To work, O Utopian Alnaschar! Dreams of the Unattainable balance no banker's book. Ah, well!" Then choosing a favorable situation, he began the outline of a sketch of sunrise on the

Welsh mountains. The artist's heart was in the work, and it grew under his loving fingers. It was already half colored, when a soft yet unmistakable expres-sion of surprise caused him to drop his brush and look hastily round.

A few yards behind him stood a young lady. She was of a dazzling fair complexion, just in the slightest degree tinged by sun brown, and was rather tall of figure than otherwise. Her eyes were large, liquid, and of a melting tender ness, their color blue. Her small queenly head, covered with sunny chestnut braids, was gracefully set on a slender white neck. Her smile was of surpassing beauty—it lit up her whole face—and her hands and feet were exceedingly small and beautifully proportioned.

This fair girl, who was apparently about twenty years of age, wore a plain white dress, with a tartan scarf and sash, and a white straw hat simply trimmed with purple and white heath ssoms. She might have passed for Ellen in the Lady of the Lake. "O dear, I am sure I beg your pardon!" said

the lady. "Anne Boleyn, by Jove!" thought the gentleman; but he said as he glanced at the sketchbook she held in her hand-"Nay, I beg yours, if, as I guess, I have occupied the place from which you intended to sketch?"

"Yes—no—that is—O, pray do not move."
as she saw Reginald Ashe begin putting together his palette and brushes. "Mine is no
sketch, it is merely a scratch. I was never
taught. In fact, this is my first attempt." But Reginald had risen.

"O, do pray finish your painting," said the young girl. "I shall be so distressed!" And she really looked so." "May I glance at it?" she asked timidly. "O yes, I shall be most happy," said the young man, looking at her with an artist's eye.

"Beautiful!" cried she. "Beautiful indeed!" echoed he. But the lady meant the sketch, and the artist meant the

It is perfectly wonderful, when people have a taste in common, how quickly they manage to make friends over it. Bring two enthusiastic musicians, painters, or politicians together for the first time, and in half an hour they will be as intimate as if they had known each other an their lives. It is no wonder, then, that the acquaintanceship progresses rapidly, when on the one side there is an intelligent and beautiful girl, and on the other a handsome and clever young man of fascinating manners. Reginald found himself explaining and sug-

gesting to the young girl, as if he had been engaged to teach her at a half guinea a lesson. He ran through the gamut of "outline," "tone, "coloring," and "chiaro oscuro," with glib pro-ficiency. Nor did his fair pupil appear by any ficiency. means loth to learn. It must be said in her excuse (if any of our bewitching townladies who read this pronounce her a "bold thing"), that Belgravian etiquette has yet been introduced into 88 the Welsh mountains-and long may it be ere it is so! Lilian Wrasse (for it was the Rector' daughter) was speaking to a stranger without an introduction, it is true; but then a mutual love for art drew them together, and the young lady spoke and acted in every way as only a true gentlewoman can do.

Meanwhile having finished his own sketch, the artist was examining that of Miss Wrasse, and pointing out to her in what respects it was deficient. It was a crude affair, as might have been expected from an untaught hand; but rude as it was it nevertheless bore evidences within it of true artistic instincts. Lillan was pleased with the artist's approbation of what was good in her sketch, tempered as it was by honest censure of that which was bad.

"I like to be told my faults," she said. "Papa says my drawing is perfection; but 1 know, I feel it is not. O, thank you for telling me." Reginald was amused yet pleased. How different was this unsophisticated girl from his fair London acquaintances, with whom, to question the perfection of anything they did, was to put oneself under the ban of perpetual exile from circles polite.

"Nobody ever taught me, you see," Lilian; "O, I should like to have a master." "And I should like to be he," thought Reginald. But he did not say so. He knew the proprieties. Yet he was more than half in love with this charming Welsh maid already. A pang shot through his neart as he reflected that this chance meeting would probably be the last, since he knew not who the young lady was Did a similar reflection possibly cross Lilian's mind? It is not improbable.

The sun had by this time risen high in the beavens, and Miss Wrasse hastly prepared to turn her footsteps homewards. "I am so much obliged to you for your hints,"

she said, adjusting her red plaid scarf; "I shall be sure to profit by them. "O, do not thank me," he said, with a glow on his handsome face. "It has been such a pleasure." Then, unable to resist the tempta-tion, he added, "May I not hope we shall

meet-But, with a graceful bow, she turned away

her blushing face and was gone. The artist stood a few moments watching the tall slight figure as, with white dress fluttering, it slowly descended from the hill slope to the moorlands below. He sighed uncon-sciously as he thought how often it happens thus in life. We meet (in some railway carriage perhaps) a man whom instinct tells us could love as a friend, or a woman who realizes our day dream. The station is reached. the train stops, and into the seething crowd of life vanish both man and woman, leaving us with a vague undefinable feeling of "something missing" which we never experienced before.

But as Reignald Ashe stood watching the young girl (who had certainly not left him "fancy free") he observed her suddenly stop, with a gesture that betokened somewhat of alarm, and look undecidedly round her. Before the artist-though he strained his eyes to the utmost-could discern the reason of this, he beheld the young girl turn round and retrace her steps towards the spot where he stood, looking up to him as she did so, and augment-

ing her pace till it reached a positive run. "Good heavens!" exclaimed Reginald, "what can be the matter!" and he advanced rapidly to the young lady's assistance. He had not run twenty yards down the hill-side, with his paintssels in his hand, when an agonized

The day was splendid, although as intensely | shrick from Lilian made him redouble his pace, and at the same moment he perceived the cause. of her alarm.

A few yards behind the young girl, and following her at a brisk trot, was one of the largest of the shaggy black cattle of which we have spoken. Although this species are of no size as compared with the ordinary kinds of cattle, they are often obstinate and vicious to a degree, and sufficiently powerful to give anybedy whom they may attack a poor chance of getting away from them without either loss of life or damage to limb. The spiteful little brute was probably attracted by the red portion of Lilian's scarf, for she wore a "Rob Roy" tartan; and as he followed her he stopped a few mo ments to bellow wrathfully and to toss his shaggy black head, in which his evil little eyes twinkled from out a forest of hair like those of a demon. Fortunately this deliberate gloating over the prospect of the immolation of a victim gave Lilian time to gain considerably on her pursuer, and to Reginald to take in the whole situation and determine upon his course of action. He had observed as he descended the hill a small clump of stunted thorn bushes, the shelter of which it was his object to gain. And accordingly, having reached Lilian and taken her hand, he half urged, half dragged the terrified girl till they were both safely ensconced behind this friendly shelter. It was not too soon, for they had barely reached the bushes when their vicious little enemy was upon them. Now the bushes, seven in number, formed a clump, round which it was impossible, so long as Reginald and Lillan kept moving, for the bull to eatch them. Accordingly they dodged round and round the clump, until the young girl, sick, terrified, and giddy, was on the point of fainting. The bull, nothing point of fainting. The bull, nothing daunted, in spite of several severe blows on his muzzle from the artist's tressels. continued to walk round and round the trees with all the spiteful malignity of a cat who has a mouse in view which knows cannot escape her; when it suddenly eccurred to Reginald, that were the cause of his anger removed, the bull might become more manageable. Accordingly Lilian, with the help of the young man, removed the obnoxious scarf, which Reginald rolled up and concealed in his pocket. No sooner was the object of his hatred removed than the savage little animal stared stupidly at the pair as if desirous of some fresh provocation, and then, balked of his intended assault on the detested color, gave a snort of indignation and trotted back to rejoin

the herd. But directly all immediate danger was removed, the highly-wrought nerves of the young girl gave way and she fainted. The artist laid her gently and tenderly down on the heather, and proceeded to fill his cap with water at one of the many rivulets which meandered over the moor. This done, he mixed with it a small portion of brandy from his luncheon flask, and bathed the temples and hands of the insensible girl. Whilst he was so doing he caught sight of two peasants burning turf at no great distance, and by loud and continued shouts attracted their attention, when they left their peat heaps and came towards him.

'Lord have mercy on us!" said one of them in Welsh (of which the artist fortunately understood a little) "If it isn't parson's daughter!"
"Parson's daughter!" exclaimed Reginald, as he remembered Mrs. Crupe's observations that morning.

Meanwhile Lilian had slowly come to herself. to the great satisfaction of the stolid gaping peasants. 'She ben't dead after all!" said they in chorus.

"O!" exclaimed the young girl, holding out her hand to Reginald, "how much I owe you, sir! I should have lost my life but for you. She could say no more; and the artist, not at all desirous of being thanked, inquired if she thought she was strong enough, with his assist-

ance, to reach the rectory.
"O yes," said she; "I feel quite strong now."
She was nevertheless compelled to lean pretty heavily on the young man's arm; and perhaps that slow walk and silent tete-a-tete did a good deal to precipitate matters. Who knows? After this seasonable service to his daughter.

and consequent claim upon the rector's gratitude, was it not a matter of course that an inviin the house once obtained, how could things do but progress in the usual groove? An old philosopher tells us, that as fire and tow, so are young man and woman in the constant neighporhood of each other, especially when of similar tastes and dispositions.

Lilian Wrasse did not need much entreaty before she consented to sit as the model for Anne Boleyn; and such good use did the painter make of his time, that when the finishing touch had been given to the great picture, the finishing touch had also been given to the destiny of two The "Meeting of Henry VIII with Anne Bo-

leyn" created a "sensation" at the Royal Academy next season, and Reginald Ashe always remembered with pleasure that his search of a model for that unfortunate queen had been the cause of his finding a wife. Early in the spring the Thunderbolt arrived at Plymouth from her West Indian cruise. Before she had been anchored in the sound twentyfour hours, Reginald Ashe received the follow-

"Pear Reggie:—You know my bargain with my Damon. Well! Leila Davenant and I have come to an understanding. Be my 'best man. Your affectionate

"P. S .- Hope the pleture is good." To which the lieutenant received the following answer:-"Dear Bertie: - Can't. Going to be a bride-

groom myself. Let's be married same place and Who do you think I'm going to marry? Why, Anne Boleyn! Your affectionate "REGINALD. "P. S .- The picture is superb!"

And married at the same place and on the same day they were; for Lilian and her father, fully sympathizing with the affection of the two friends, came up to London on purpose, And two happier alliances were never formed than on the day when the artist married his model.

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as by any other route given to MOBILE, GALVES-TON, INDIANOLA, ROCKPORT, LAVACCA, and BRAZOS, and to all points on the Mississippi river between New Orleans and St. Louis, Red river freights reshipped at New Orleans without charge

WEEKLY LINE TO SAVANNAH, GA, The TONAWANDA will sail for Savannah on Saturday, June 3, at 8 A. M. The WYOMING will sail from Savannah on Sat-

rday, June 3.
THROUGH BILLS OF LADING given to all the principal towns in Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Teanessee in connection with the Central Railroad of Georgia, Atantic and Gulf Railroad, and Florida steamers, at aslow rates as by competing lines.

SEMI-MONTHLY LINE TO WILMINGTON, N. C. The rioneen will sail for Wilmington, N.C., on Thurstay, June 8, at 6 A. M. Returning, will leave Wilmington Thursday, June 18.
Connects with the Cape Fear River Steamboat
Company, the Wilmington and Weldon and North
Carolina Railroads, and the Wilmington and Manchester Railroad to all interior points.
Freights for Columbia, S. C., and Augusta, Ga.,
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